

AIDS TO ANÆSTHESIA. By Victor Goldman, F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Third edition. (Pp. viii + 343; figs. 83. 7s. 6d.) London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox, 1954.

EVERY text-book on anæsthesia has been expanding rapidly during the past ten years. This latest edition in the "Aids" series is no exception, being nearly half as big again as the first edition published in 1941.

The author states the book is written for the student and newly qualified house surgeon. As few are agreed about the teaching of anæsthesia to undergraduates, the choice of some of the new chapters must have been difficult. The student whose reading is limited to an "Aids" would be unwise to dabble with the muscle relaxants and hypotensive techniques.

It was refreshing to see the chapter on Dental Anæsthesia rewritten so fully and so clearly, as this aspect of anæsthesia is very often neglected in larger text-books. Dental anæsthesia will probably occupy most of the occasional anæsthetist's time, and he will derive great benefit from this chapter.

There are many statements in the book which will not be generally accepted, e.g., "Blind intubation is the method of choice"; "In valvular heart disease . . . the anæsthetic of choice is Cyclopropane." There seems to be an over-emphasis of the perfection of the airway once an endotracheal tube is in situ. It would have been helpful to the student to explain why intravenous anæsthesia in cases of œdema of the floor of the mouth is 100 per cent. fatal.

The binding, paper, type, and illustrations are of a high order, and it can be safely said that the author has fulfilled the purpose he had in mind in writing the book, i.e., "to present in a concise form the essentials that must be known to anyone who administers an anæsthetic agent . . ."

M. B.

EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT DISEASES FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.

By William McKenzie, M.B., B.Chir.(Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Pp. vii + 256; figs. 95. 21s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1953.

As a book designed for medical students, it fulfils its purpose admirably, and indeed, for the general practitioner, it will serve as an excellent book for reference, as the various more common conditions are dealt with adequately and shortly, and the book is not burdened with long descriptions of the less common diseases, and procedures, or with detailed operative technique.

It is printed on good paper, in clear type, with a profusion of excellent photographs of good quality, particularly in the examination section, where they are most needed.

The interposed, short, illustrative case histories in small type are a useful adjunct, and make the book more interesting and useful.

The methods of treatment and investigation are up to date and made as clear and simple as possible, also the treatments described are decisive and definite, without too many alternative arguments, which only confuse the student approaching the subject for the first time.

The only criticisms one can offer are that there is little classification of causation of various diseases and symptoms which would help the student to remember them, and that in the chapter on prescriptions there are included various preparations which are seldom used to-day, and indeed tend to contradict the methods given in the text, particularly in regard to the treatment of otitis media.

F. A. M.

MEDICINE FOR NURSES. By M. Toohey, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. (Pp. xvi + 588; figs. 152. 28s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.

THIS new book is a comprehensive and detailed text-book of medicine for nurses. It is up to date, reliable, and well written. Pleasing and helpful features for the busy nurse preparing for examination are useful summaries to most chapters and diagrams which depict the salient points of many of the important diseases.

This is a good book, and Dr. Toohey is to be congratulated in writing a standard text-book with a freshness and individuality which makes it a pleasure to read.

D. A. D. M.